

the output on the street. The union label blesses the product.

We cannot imagine anything that would make the devil laugh more heartily than this. The idea of union men propagandizing the destruction of their own union must surely make him howl with delight—supposing of course, that he is interested in the battle between Labor and Capital. Neither can we imagine anything more pleasing to the capitalists behind the Open Shop program than to have the "good union men" cut their own throats in this way.

Of course, the union printer will answer that he **MUST** do this. There is a sacred contract which binds him to turn out the work he is given to do. Yes, and the same good union men were tickled to pieces when they finally prevailed upon the boss printers to sign those contracts! If their unionism were based upon the revolutionary principle of emancipating the worker from wage slavery instead of making a series of truces with the bosses, they would not have any contracts, much less "sacred" ones with which to undermine their own organization at the will of these exploiters.

But that is the lesson they may learn soon. Continue to preach your masters' sermons, publish his lies, defame yourself and your union brothers, destroy the organization which is the result of scores of years of effort—and when you have accomplished the task of reducing yourselves to crawling worms under your bosses' heels, then, perhaps, you will see the folly of your outworn craft unionism with its contracts—sacred or otherwise.

## An Absurd Proposal

"Among plans proposed (by the Cincinnati Central Labor Union to combat the bosses' Open Shop Propaganda) was the stimulation of the co-operative movement to the end that employees go into business for themselves when a strike is called." News item.

The long-drawn out absurdity of the tactics of trades unionism are endless it seems.

Should this false philosophy of labor skates obtain, something like the following would ensue in the case of strikes:

Should railroad workers strike, they should immediately build new national railway systems. In case of a long shoreman's strike, they would have

to build new docks, wharfs, warehouses. In case of agricultural workers, all that is necessary is to invest in some hundreds of millions of acres of land and start farming. And for street car workers it is only necessary that they proceed to get franchises and lay their own city railways. Steel workers could invest their millions in ore, mines, furnaces, railways, shops, ships, locomotives, land etc. Garment workers would have nothing to do but set themselves up in the garment making industry, while coal miners would simply start digging their own coal.

Only it couldn't work out that way.

If it could it would not be necessary to await a strike to put it into practice.

The idea of the workers setting up in business in competition with the present owners of capitalistic industry is about the most utopian and absurd proposition that can be imagined. Yet, many workers consider it in all seriousness.

Co-operation has been made a Fetish of in some quarters and it may be that outgrown craft unionism will seek to rally its shattered forces around this idol in its last supplications before death. It is quite possible that it will do so, for its whole philosophy is in tune with the idea. After a half century of teaching and practicing the co-partnership of Labor and Capital it is natural that in case of a breach of business relations it should attempt to set up for itself around the corner.

If trade unionists had been schooled in the knowledge of the ineradicable antagonisms between Labor and its exploiters, it would know what to do in this crisis which it now faces, with its hundreds of thousands of members already placed on the benefit lists of the Unions. It would know that the remedy for the present lockout of labor, is the taking over of industry by the workers. And it would be preparing to do so too, instead of leading the workers from one pitfall into another.

The remedy is **WORKERS' CONTROL**—not business competition.

"You can't suppress the strike, you can't put the lid on life. The strike is the life need of the workers. Strikes come because workers do not get enough to live on. We say this is no sort of social system to ask Americans to live under." — I. E. Ferguson, on trial before Judge Weeks on a charge of "criminal anarchy."